COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

"A Tradition of Service" OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

July 18, 2011

FILE NO.: IV 2292428

FROM:

JAMES J. HELLMOLD, CAPTAIN

CENTURY STATION

TO: JASON PUGA, DEPUTY #

CENTURY STATION

SUBJECT: WRITTEN REPRIMAND

On or about July 27, 2010 while initiating a foot pursuit, you failed to broadcast required information to Sheriff's Communication Center, and/or the station.

Your actions violated the following sections of the Manual of Policy and Procedures:

5-09/220.50 Foot Pursuits

You are hereby reprimanded for your conduct in this incident and advised that any future violations of a similar nature may result in more severe discipline.

James J. Hellmold, Captain

Century Station

Deputy Jason Puga

Century Station

"A Tradition of Service"
OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: July 18, 2011 FILE NO. SH2274799

FROM:

JOSEPH S. HARTSHORNE, COMMANDER TO:

JOSEPH M. GOODEN, CAPTAIN

OFFICE OF THE UNDERSHERIFF

INTERNAL AFFAIRS BUREAU

SUBJECT:

EXECUTIVE FORCE REVIEW COMMITTEE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

NON-HIT SHOOTING

The purpose of this memo is to notify you of the Review Committee's findings and recommendations concerning the use of force incident which occurred on July 27, 2010.

The Committee met on July 14, 2011, and consisted of me, Commander Eric G. Parra, Custody Operations Division, and Commander Michael J. Rothans, Field Operations Region III.

The Committee deemed:

• as Founded, the allegation that Deputy Jason Puga # violated the Department's Manual of Policy and Procedures, Section 5-09/220.50, Foot Pursuits, on or about July 27, 2010, while engaged in a foot pursuit suspect, he failed to initiate a radio broadcast with appropriate information necessary within the first few seconds in order to ensure adequate resources could be coordinated to assist him and his partner in apprehending the suspect in pursuit; and/or, while engaged in a pursuit he attempted to apprehend the suspect rather than contain the suspect.

The Committee recommended that Deputy Jason Puga # receive a written reprimand.

JSH:RSP/rsp

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

"A Tradition Of Service"

DATE: July 15, 2011 FILE: SH2274799

OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

FROM: JOSEPH S. HARTSHORNE, COMMANDER

OFFICE OF THE UNDERSHERIFF

TO:

JAMES J. HELLMOLD, CAPTAIN

CENTURY STATION

SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE FORCE REVIEW COMMITTEE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

NON-HIT SHOOTING

The purpose of this memo is to notify you of the review committee's findings and recommendations concerning the use of force incident which occurred on July 27, 2011.

The Committee met on July 14, 2011 and consisted of me, Commander Eric G. Parra, Custody Operations Division, and Commander Michael J. Rothans, Field Operations Division III. The Committee determined the use of force by Deputy Jason Puga # was within Department policy.

Please advise Deputy Puga of this finding.

JSH:RSP/rsp

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

"A Tradition Of Service"

DATE: September 15, 2011

FILE: SH2274799

OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

FROM:

JOSEPH S. HARTSHORNE, COMMANDER

OFFICE OF THE UNDERSHERIFF

TO: JOSEPH M. GOODEN, CAPTAIN

INTERNAL AFFAIRS BUREAU

SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE FORCE REVIEW COMMITTEE DISPOSITION:

DEPUTY JASON PUGA # CENTURY STATION

Deputy Puga and his partner, Thomas West, were driving east on 111th Place from Broadway, Los Angeles, when their attention was drawn to Suspect Hernandez who was riding his bike without a headlight.

Suspect Hernandez appeared to be casing vehicles park along the curbline. The deputies decided to initiate contact with the suspect and investigate further. When Suspect Hernandez noticed the deputies, he attempted to distance himself from them. The deputies saw the suspect was grabbing and/or fumbling with something on his waistband with his left hand.

The suspect pedaled his bike north onto Broadway from 111th Place on the east sidewalk. When the deputies caught up to Suspect Hernandez, he dropped his bike in front of an apartment complex and ran through the pedestrian wrought iron gate and east on the walkway.

The suspect ran south in the alley away from the apartment building. The deputies pursued the suspect. Deputy Puga was 15 yards behind the suspect and Deputy West was 15 yards behind Deputy Puga. The deputies could see Suspect Hernandez was holding something in his waistband. As Deputy West was attempting to broadcast the pursuit, Deputy Puga saw the suspect point a firearm at him.

Deputy Puga fired at the suspect. Deputy West broadcast emergency radio traffic and set the containment. SEB Canine Services detail located the suspect and he was taken into custody. The suspect's weapon was not found.

On July 14, 2011, the Executive Force Review Committee convened and conducted a review regarding the facts of this case. The applicable policies that were evaluated by the committee were: MPP §§ 3-01/025.00, Use of Force; 3-01/025.30, Use of Firearms and Deadly Force; 3-01/025.10, Unreasonable Force; and 3-01/050.10, Performance to Standards.

Concerning:

MPP § 3-01/025.00, Use of Force, MPP § 3-01/025.30, Use of Firearms and Deadly Force, and MPP § 3-01/025.10, Unreasonable Force, the Committee determined that the force used by Deputy Jason Puga was reasonable and necessary and in compliance with Department policy.

JSH:RSP/rsp

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Investigative Summary
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- * Deputy Thomas West

Exhibits:

- A- Criminal investigation
- **B-** Crime Scene Photos
- C- Crime Scene Photos used by personnel
- D- Foot Pursuit Package

Miscellaneous Documents

Los Armeles County Sheriff's Department

Officer Involved Shooting

Page <u>1</u> of <u>4</u>

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Officer Involved Shooting | URN: 910-13169-2199-055 | Page 2 of 4

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Year:

Apprehended?

Armed?

Vehicle Make

County of Los Angeles SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Non-HIT SHOOTING EVALUATION (On Duty)

UNIT:

Century Sheriff's Station July 27, 2010, Tuesday

DATE: TIME:

2124 hours

LOCATION:

Broadway, Los Angeles

URN#:

910-13169-2199-055

IAB#:

SH2274799

NATURE OF INCIDENT:

On July 27, 2010, at approximately 2124 hours, Century Deputy Jason Puga, Employee # shot at Suspect David Hernandez (MH/29) after he pointed a handgun at him, missing him.

Deputy Puga (bookman) and his partner, Thomas West, Employee # (driver), assigned to a marked Sheriff's patrol unit 213D were driving east on 111th Place from Broadway, Los Angeles, when their attention was drawn to a male individual (Suspect Hernandez, MH/29) riding a bicycle west on the north sidewalk just in front of without a headlight.

Deputies stated Suspect Hernandez was riding his bicycle very slow, and peering into parked vehicles along the sidewalk of 111th Place. Based on Suspect Hernandez's actions, deputies Puga and West believed he was "casing" (informal criminal surveillance) cars and planning to burglarize vehicles parked on the street. At this time, deputies decided to initiate a burglary investigation and contact Suspect Hernandez.

As deputies began to contact Suspect Hernandez, he noticed their presence and quickly pedaled away from them west on 111th Place in an apparent attempt to distance himself from deputy personnel.

Deputies explained that once they made a three point turn on 111th Place in order to stop Suspect Hernandez, the suspect was now riding his bicycle on the street about twenty yards in front of them headed west toward Broadway. Suspect Hernandez continued at a high rate of speed on his bicycle, periodically looking back, while grabbing and/or fumbling with something on his waistband with his left hand.

As Suspect Hernandez approached Broadway, deputies closed the distance; however, the suspect turned north on Broadway from 111th Place on the east sidewalk. Deputies stated they never lost sight of Suspect Hernandez as he turned the corner, and was now about twenty feet in front of them. By the time deputy personnel caught up to Suspect Hernandez, he had stopped in front of them and dropped his bicycle. As deputy personnel exited their patrol vehicle to detain Suspect Hernandez, he ran through the pedestrian wrought iron gate and east down the walkway of the apartment building. At this time deputies lost sight of Suspect Hernandez.

As deputies slowly approached the dark entrance/exit pedestrian walkway of the apartment building from the sidewalk, they could not determine where Suspect Hernandez ran to. Deputies described the pedestrian walkway as being narrow and dark. While searching for Suspect Hernandez, deputies saw himcome out from the rear of the apartment building running east toward the alley.

Deputies followed Suspect Hernandez in an attempt to determine his direction of travel as the suspect ran south in the alley away from the apartment building. Deputies stated they began their foot pursuit at the alley, as Deputy Puga was 15 yards behind Suspect Hernandez, while Deputy West was 15 yards behind Deputy Puga. Initially, while chasing Suspect Hernandez, deputies saw him fumbling with an item in his waistband with his left hand. The suspect continued reaching into his waistband as he ran south in the middle of the alley.

As Deputy West ran behind Deputy Puga, he attempted to get a bearing of his exact location in order to broadcast their foot pursuit; however, at this point, he heard Deputy Puga yelling that Suspect Hernandez had just tossed an item, quickly followed by, "He's got a gun!" As Deputy West caught up to Deputy Puga at the rear detached garage located at Broadway, he heard Deputy Puga fire three rounds from his firearm.

Deputy Puga told Deputy West that the suspect ran south from the backyard of the location, at which time, Deputy West put out emergency radio traffic regarding an officer-involved shooting. Deputy West set up a containment of the location, whereby Canine Services Detail was requested to assist in the search for the suspect.

Canine Services Detail eventually located Suspect Hernandez, who was found hiding in thick brush in the front yard of Broadway. Suspect Hernandez sustained puncture wounds to the left forearm from a Canine Services dog bite.

Deputy personnel were not injured.

A subsequent search for Suspect Hernandez's weapon met with negative results.

The item discarded by Suspect Hernandez during the foot pursuit was a black fanny pack, which contained burglary tools such as lock picking devices, screwdrivers, garage door/gate openers, and miscellaneous tools.

Century OSS Detective David Rodriguez handled the criminal investigation and crime scene forensics.

Century Operations Lieutenant Merrill Ladenheim and Duty Commander Todd Rogers responded to the location.

Attorney Cynthia Hernandez from the Office of Independent Review (OIR) responded to the location.

The following summary is based on written documentation, and interviews of involved deputies.

INVOLVED PERSONNEL:

Puga, Jason R., Deputy, Employee # Century Sheriff's Station Field Operations Region II

EMPLOYEE WORK HISTORY:

Date of Employment: 06-22-2005

Date Assigned to Patrol: 05-02-2010 (Century)

Completed Patrol Training: Prior Shooting Incident(s): Prior Founded Force Incidents:

West, Thomas A., Deputy, Employee # Century Sheriff's Station

EMPLOYEE WORK HISTORY:

Field Operations Region II

Date of Employment: 04-13-2000

Date Assigned to Patrol: 10-01-2006 (Century)

Completed Patrol Training: Prior Shooting Incident(s):

Prior Founded Force Incidents:

INVOLVED SUSPECTS:

Hernandez, David (aka David Pacas), MH/29, DOB: 08-09-80, 5'08/170, Blk/Bro.

Address: Home: CII# MAIN# FBI# LAPD#

SSN: JAIN# PDJ: CDC:

Involved Suspect History:

Suspect Hernandez's

VICTIM:

Deputy Jason Puga

Sworn Personnel:

Deputy Jason Puga Deputy Thomas West

<u>IAB Note:</u> Refer to the Exhibit A for a detailed summary from the OSS Detective David Rodriguez's interview.

CIVILIAN WITNESSES:

N/A

CANVASSED AREA:

The surrounding areas were canvassed by OSS Detective David Rodriguez and Century Sheriff's Station personnel. Other than hearing anywhere from two to four gunshots, citizens in the area did not witness the confrontation between involved deputy personnel and the suspect.

<u>IAB Note:</u> Refer to Exhibit A for a supplementary report by OSS Detective David Rodriguez and patrol personnel.

DEPARTMENT WITNESS(S):

Deputy Thomas West

INVOLVED EMPLOYEE STATEMENTS:

Deputy Jason R. Puga, Employee # was interviewed by Internal Affairs Sergeants Frank Quichocho and Teri Ruiz, on June 16, 2011, at approximately 1327 hours. Deputy Puga was represented by ALADS Attorney Audra Call from the Offices of Green and Shinee. The interview was digitally recorded and the following is a summary.

Deputy Puga said he and his partner, Deputy West, Employee # were driving east on 111th Place from Broadway in their marked patrol unit. Deputy Puga was the bookman, and in the the driver, being his

Deputy Puga stated that he noticed a male Hispanic (Suspect Hernandez) riding a bicycle on the north sidewalk of 111th Place, headed west on the sidewalk without a headlight. He added that Suspect Hernandez was riding slowly and looking into vehicles parked along the sidewalk.

Based on the suspect's actions, Deputy Puga believed Suspect Hernandez was trying to burglarize the vehicles parked along the sidewalk. As they attempted to contact Suspect Hernandez, it appeared that he noticed their presence and immediately began pedaling faster west past their patrol car.

In an attempt to contact Suspect Hernandez regarding a burglary investigation, Deputy Puga said Deputy West initiated a three-point turn in order to detain the suspect. As they completed their turn, Deputy Puga said he saw Suspect Hernandez in the middle of the street headed west toward Broadway. He added that Suspect Hernandez had his left hand in his waistband, as his right hand was on the handlebars of the bicycle.

As they drew closer to Suspect Hernandez, Deputy Puga said that the suspect made a right turn on Broadway going north on the east sidewalk. Deputy Puga said they were about a couple of seconds behind Suspect Hernandez by the time he made the turn onto Broadway. He stated that Suspect Hernandez still had his left hand in his waistband, with the right hand on the handlebar.

Deputy Puga explained that when they caught up to Suspect Hernandez, he had stopped his bicycle in front of the control on the east sidewalk. At this point, Deputy Puga said he exited the patrol car and ordered Suspect Hernandez to stop and show his hands. He stated Suspect Hernandez paused for a moment, then jumped off the bicycle and ran

east through the dark courtyard of the apartment building and out of view.

<u>IAB Note:</u> For clarification, Deputy Puga was referred to Exhibit B; crime scene photos #3 to #6 for a view of the area where Suspect Hernandez had dropped his bicycle. He confirmed that the photos depict the route of travel by Suspect Hernandez, who fled on foot through the apartment building walkway, which was located at the southside of toward the rear alley.

<u>IAB Note:</u> For further details as to Suspect Hernandez's flight through the apartment building, refer to a copy of Deputy Puga's transcribed interview on Page 14, Line 3.

In order to assess the situation, Deputy Puga said he and Deputy West slowly approached the southwest corner of the apartment building walkway located at where he last saw Suspect Hernandez. He stated the courtyard was very dark and he could not locate the suspect at this time, who ran east through the open iron pedestrian gate. While walking down the apartment building walkway in search of Suspect Hernandez, Deputy Puga said he eventually saw the suspect at the rear of the apartment building running east toward the alley. Deputy Puga said he was about midway down the apartment building walkway when he noticed the suspect running toward the alley.

Deputy Puga said as he advised Deputy West of his observations, he followed Suspect Hernandez, in order to ascertain his direction of travel. When Suspect Hernandez reached the alley, he ran south, at which time, Deputy Puga went in foot pursuit attempting to put out radio traffic. He said he could see Suspect Hernandez holding an unknown black object in this left hand. He stated that Suspect Hernandez tossed the item onto a building to the right of the alley. Just then, as Suspect Hernandez was turning in between two detached garages, between and Broadway from the alley, Deputy Puga noticed the suspect was holding a black handgun in his right hand. Deputy Puga stated that he immediately notified Deputy West that the suspect was armed with a gun. Deputy Puga said he cut the corner safely and illuminated the area, as he lost visual contact of the suspect for a second. Once he regained visual contact of the suspect, he saw Suspect Hernandez attempting to hop a pedestrian wrought iron gate, which was about seven yards in front of him.

Deputy Puga said he told Suspect Hernandez to stop and show his hands, but he continued to jump over the pedestrian iron gate. Once Suspect Hernandez landed on the other side of the iron gate, Deputy Puga said the suspect turned left back toward him pointing a black handgun in his direction. Fearing for his life and the safety of his partner, Deputy Puga fired three rounds at Suspect Hernandez. The suspect then ran south through the back yard and out of view.

At this time, Deputy Puga said Deputy West came up behind him and asked if he was okay. Deputy West then put out emergent radio traffic regarding an officer-involved shooting and initiated a tactical containment of the area for the outstanding suspect.

Deputy Puga said that Suspect Hernandez was eventually located within the contained area and apprehended by Canine Services Detail.

Follow-up Questioning:

Deputy Puga said he initially saw Suspect Hernandez at the area of He said they were approaching a speed bump just prior to noticing the suspect riding a bicycle on the north side of the sidewalk. He added they were about forty yards from the suspect at about a 45 degree angle to his left. He stated they were traveling about five to ten miles an hour in their marked patrol car prior to observing the suspect.

Deputy Puga said as the suspect was riding his bicycle, he was pedaling real slow, then would stop then go again. He stated there were no obstructions between him and the suspect. When asked what drew his attention to the suspect, Deputy Puga stated that Suspect Hernandez was riding real slow near the parked cars on the street and he was looking into not just one but a couple of vehicles. Based on the suspect's actions, Deputy Puga believed the suspect was preparing to burglarize vehicles; therefore, attempted to contact Suspect Hernandez.

While attempting to detain Suspect Hernandez, Deputy Puga said the suspect noticed them, looked startled and quickly pedaled away from them west toward Broadway. Based on the suspect's actions, Deputy Puga said he believed Suspect Hernandez had either just burglarized a vehicle or was about to.

Deputy Puga said the suspect was wearing dark clothing. He added that although it was dark, the road was well lit with street lighting and he could clearly see the suspect on the sidewalk.

At his initial sight of Suspect Hernandez, Deputy Puga said the suspect passed them headed west just before they reached the speed bump. He said the suspect was about thirty yards away from the driver's door on the sidewalk.

By the time they executed a three-point turn to catch up to the suspect, Deputy Puga said Suspect Hernandez was about fifty yards in front of them in the middle of the street with his back facing them. He stated the suspect was pedaling very fast in an attempt to distance himself from them.

Deputy Puga explained that as they quickly closed the distance to within fifteen yards of the suspect, Suspect Hernandez abruptly turned north on Broadway from 111th Place. He said the corner of Broadway and 111th Place was well lit with street lighting. He

added that it took about ten seconds for them to make it to the corner.

Deputy Puga stated they did not initiate any call for back up because they did not exactly know what they had at the time. He said other than the vehicle code violation for the headlight, they were not sure if a vehicle burglary had occurred or not.

As they came to the corner of Broadway and 111th Place, Deputy Puga said he saw Suspect Hernandez was now forty yards ahead of them on the east sidewalk of Broadway headed north. He said by the time they caught up to Suspect Hernandez, he was in front of an apartment building located at the said was a street in front of the apartment building, Deputy Puga said they stopped about seven to ten yards just passed Suspect Hernandez. He said the suspect was at a 45 degree angle behind the passenger side of the patrol car door.

<u>IAB Note:</u> Refer to Exhibit B; crime scene photo #3 for a visual reference of the location.

At this time, Deputy Puga said he ordered Suspect Hernandez to stop the bike, at which time, the suspect jumped off and ran east into an open pedestrian wrought iron gate, south of the apartment building and out of view.

Deputy Puga stated he believed the suspect was coherent and heard his commands. He added that the front side Suspect Hernandez's body initially faced him, while he was seated on the bicycle just prior to fleeing into the apartment pedestrian walkway. He also said the suspect's hands were both on the handlebars of the bicycle at this point.

Deputy Puga stated that as the patrol car was coming to a stop, he was also exiting the passenger door with his weapon drawn as he did not know if the suspect had any weapons on him.

Deputy Puga said he and Deputy West approached the southwest corner of the apartment building at an angle to assess the situation and to locate the suspect. He stated they illuminated the dark walkway with their flashlight in search of the suspect. Deputy Puga indicated he was not in foot pursuit of Suspect Hernandez at this time due to not knowing the suspect's whereabouts, and were only searching for him at this point.

During their search, Deputy Puga said he was about midway down the apartment building walkway when he saw Suspect Hernandez at the east end of the building about twenty yards from him. He stated that as Suspect Hernandez ran east toward the alley, the suspect had his right hand in his waistband, and the left hand in a running motion. Deputy Puga said he followed Suspect Hernandez in order to determine his direction of travel prior to putting out a broadcast. He said once Suspect Hernandez reached the alley and went south he initiated a foot pursuit of the suspect.

During the foot pursuit, Deputy Puga described the alley as being dark; however, he could clearly see Suspect Hernandez about fifteen yards in front of him. He stated there were no obstructions between him and the suspect in the alley.

As Suspect Hernandez continued running south in the alley, Deputy Puga said the suspect began to slow down as he approached a detached garage. At this point, Deputy Puga stated that Suspect Hernandez was grabbing an item from his waistband with his left hand, while holding a black handgun in his right hand. Deputy Puga added that he (Puga) had his duty weapon in his right hand, and flashlight in his left hand during the foot pursuit.

<u>IAB Note:</u> For further details, Refer to a copy Doputy Puga's transcription on Page 4; Line 36.

Deputy Puga said he maintained a fifteen yard distance from Suspect Hernandez during the foot pursuit. He said he saw Suspect Hernandez attempt to toss a black object using his left hand onto the roof top of a detached garage in the alley located at He stated that the black object fell back down onto the ground; however, at the time, he could not identify the item. Deputy Puga said he was fifteen yards behind the suspect when he tossed the black object. He added that when he approached the corner of the detached garage, the black object had landed on the ground in front of him.

As Suspect Hernandez turned right into the pedestrian pathway in the alley headed west between the detached garages of and and Broadway, Deputy Puga said he lost sight of him for a second. Deputy Puga said that when he cut the corner and positioned himself at the edge of the detached garage a Broadway, he regained visual contact of Suspect Hernandez. At this point, Deputy Puga explained that Suspect Hernandez was trying to hop over a wrought iron pedestrian gate. He said other than his flashlight, he had additional lighting from a residential home that had a back light in the alley, which illuminated the location of where he was at.

During the foot pursuit, Deputy Puga stated that he continually ordered Suspect Hernandez to stop running and to show his hands.

Deputy Puga stated that as Suspect Hernandez was attempting to jump over the wrought iron gate, it appeared that his hands were in front of him. He said Suspect Hernandez's back faced him and his backdrop was either another garage or house. Deputy Puga pointed out in Exhibit B; Crime Scene photo #13, that Suspect Hernandez jumped over the wrought iron gate on the left side of the photograph.

When Suspect Hernandez jumped over the iron gate, Deputy Puga said he saw the suspect land on a concrete sidewalk. When the suspect landed, Deputy Puga said Suspect Hernandez dropped into a kneeling position and faced him by turning to his

left. He added that it appeared to be a crouching type of position that Suspect Hernandez displayed. At this time, he saw Suspect Hernandez pointing a black colored handgun at him. He said he feared for his life and safety; therefore, fired three rounds at the suspect. He did not know if any of his rounds struck the suspect. Suspect Hernandez then fled south between the detached garage and the house in front of it and out of view.

Deputy Puga said the foot pursuit lasted only a few seconds from the time he chased Suspect Hernandez to where the shooting occurred. He explained that the reason why he did not initially put out radio traffic concerning a foot pursuit was that by the time he had ascertained the suspect's direction of travel, Suspect Hernandez had tossed an item and immediately; thereafter, he saw the suspect armed with a gun. He added that he quickly took cover at the corner of the detached garage, while holding his flashlight in his left hand and duty weapon in his right hand.

Deputy Puga stated that he accounted for loading only fifteen rounds of ammo into his department issued weapon, Beretta 92FS, prior to the incident. He said that through department firearms training, he is aware that the Beretta 92FS is loaded with fifteen rounds in the magazine with one round in the chamber.

<u>IAB Note:</u> Refer to Scientific Services Bureau, Firearm's Section Supplementary report for further details indicating the collection of Deputy Puga's firearm containing one empty magazine and 12 live rounds of ammunition.

Deputy Puga described the area as a residential neighborhood. He stated that the location is just north of their reporting district. He added that they received information earlier in the day regarding narcotics coming out of that neighborhood.

Deputy Puga stated that there was neither pedestrian nor vehicular traffic when they initially saw Suspect Hernandez at 111th Place.

Deputy Puga said there was constant verbal communication between him and his partner during the entire incident. They did not split up or lose visual contact of each other at any time during the encounter with Suspect Hernandez.

Deputy Puga stated that he had point of aim, and target acquisition toward Suspect Hernandez when he pointed a handgun at him.

Deputy Puga said there was no cross fire situation between him and Deputy West.

Deputy Puga believed he had command and control of the incident and exhibited tactical advantage based on communicating with his partner, taking cover at different

times, remaining with his partner, and staying within visual contact of each other during the foot pursuit, in addition to quickly putting out a broadcast after the officer-involved shooting coupled with immediately setting up a containment of the area.

<u>IAB Note:</u> Refer to the transcribed copy of Deputy Puga's interview for further details.

Deputy Thomas A. West, Employee # was interviewed by Internal Affairs Sergeant's Frank Quichocho and Teri Ruiz, on June 16, 2011, at approximately 1456 hours. Deputy West was represented by ALADS Attorney Audra Call from the Offices of Green and Shinee. The interview was digitally recorded and the following is a summary:

Deputy West said while he was driving a marked patrol unit east on 111th Place, he and his partner, Deputy Puga, Employee # saw a male Hispanic riding a bicycle west on the north side of the street. He explained that the suspect (Suspect Hernandez) was riding very slow and casing (informal criminal surveillance) vehicles parked along the street. He stated that Suspect Hernandez appeared to be looking for an opportunity to burglarize a vehicle parked along the north sidewalk.

When Deputy West hit a speed bump the headlights of his patrol car shined up against a tree line, at which time, Suspect Hernandez noticed them, became startled and quickly pedaled away west toward Broadway. Deputy West indicated that the initial location of where he saw Suspect Hernandez was at

Deputy West stated that Suspect Hernandez did not have a headlight on his bicycle, so he initiated a three-point turn in order to stop him and conduct a CVC (California Vehicle Code) violation and possible vehicle burglary investigation.

As Deputy West completed his turn, he saw Suspect Hernandez about fifty yards in front of him the middle of the street headed west toward Broadway. He said he saw Suspect Hernandez holding his waistband with his left hand as the right hand was holding the bicycle. As Deputy West closed the distance, Suspect Hernandez turned north on Broadway. Suspect Hernandez was now twenty yards in front of them as they drove north on Broadway in an attempt to contact the suspect.

Deputy West said he told Deputy Puga to yell at the suspect to stop; however, Suspect Hernandez ignored his commands. Suspect Hernandez rode his bicycle on the sidewalk to an apartment building located at and dumped it in front of the steps leading into a pedestrian wrought iron gate walkway. Deputy West stated that he pulled up in front of a parked van, where he and Deputy Puga exited in order to detain Suspect Hernandez. At this point, Suspect Hernandez ran into the south walkway of the apartment building and out of view.

Due to Suspect Hernandez's disappearance through the walkway, Deputy West said he and Deputy Puga began to tactically search the walkway on foot. He said he was about fifteen yards behind Deputy Puga during their search for the suspect. At some point, Deputy West said he was advised by Deputy Puga that Suspect Hernandez was at the end of the apartment building running east toward the alley. Deputy West stated that Deputy Puga was about midway down the apartment walkway when he followed the suspect in order to get his direction of travel.

Deputy West said that as Deputy Puga chased Suspect Hernandez to the alley and headed south, he heard Deputy Puga yell, "He just tossed something." Shortly afterwards, Deputy West heard Deputy Puga yell, "Sir, he's got a gun" immediately followed by Deputy Puga firing three gunshots from his weapon. Deputy West stated he immediately checked on Deputy Puga's welfare and determined he was okay.

As Suspect Hernandez fled from the shooting, Deputy West said he initiated an emergent broadcast regarding an officer-involved shooting and immediately set up a containment of the area.

Deputy West said during the foot pursuit, he and Deputy Puga did not split up as they remained together, communicated with each other and stayed in visual contact of one another throughout the entire incident.

Follow-up Questioning:

Deputy West said he was traveling about seven to eight miles an hour on 111th Place just before he approached the speed bump, when he noticed Suspect Hernandez on the sidewalk about thirty yards from the drivers's side of the patrol car. He said he initially opened his car door in an attempt to stop the suspect; however, Suspect Hernandez was pedaling too fast and got by him heading west toward Broadway.

After conducting a three-point turn, Deputy West communicated with Deputy Puga about what he wanted him to do with the suspect. He said Suspect Hernandez rode his bicycle onto the middle of the street as they closed the distance to within twenty yards. Suspect Hernandez then turned north on Broadway on the east sidewalk and began accelerating away from them. Deputy West stated that he maintained visual contact with Suspect Hernandez the entire time. At the corner of Broadway/111th Place, Deputy West said they were about twenty feet from Suspect Hernandez, but had to stop for potential vehicular traffic headed northbound.

Deputy West said by the time he caught up to Suspect Hernandez, he was already in front of the apartment building located at the pulled his patrol car in front of a parked van and placed it at a 45 degree angle. He added that Suspect Hernandez had just dumped his bicycle on the sidewalk. He said as he parked the patrol car, Deputy Puga was already out of the vehicle ordering the

suspect to stop and show his hands. Once he exited the patrol car, Deputy West said he saw Suspect Hernandez run east into a walkway south of the apartment building.

Deputy West stated that he placed the patrol car ten feet in front of the parked van, which positioned them about thirty feet from the suspect.

Deputy West described the apartment walkway as being narrow and dark. He said there was a chain link fence separating the walkway from a set of homes on the southside of the apartment building.

While searching for Suspect Hernandez in the walkway, Deputy West said he was about twenty feet behind Deputy Puga. Deputy West said Deputy Puga then noticed Suspect Hernandez at the end of the apartment building, which was illuminated by a light, who ran toward the alley. Deputy West said he was trying to get the address of the apartment building; but it was too dark and could not get an exact location of the area.

Deputy West stated the foot pursuit began at the east alley, as Deputy Puga chased Suspect Hernandez south for about forty yards. As Deputy West got his bearing of where he was at and began to put out a broadcast of their foot pursuit, he heard Deputy Puga yell that the suspect had just tossed an item, immediately followed by Deputy Puga yelling, "Sir, he's got a gun!" He then heard three pops, which were gunshots from Deputy Puga's weapon.

Deputy West said he did not see what Suspect Hernandez had tossed during the foot pursuit.

Deputy West stated that when they began their search for Suspect Hernandez in the walkway, it was less than a minute before he re-appeared at the end of the apartment building.

Deputy West said it was only seconds from the time Deputy Puga chased Suspect Hernandez to when he heard him yelling that the suspect had tossed something and that he had a gun. He stated he was about twenty yards behind Deputy Puga when he yelled about the suspect having a gun.

Deputy West explained that the reason he was not able to put out a foot pursuit broadcast was due to not having enough time. He stated that there was not enough time to safely get on the radio, as he had a flashlight in his left hand and his weapon in his right hand, coupled with the incident happening very quickly. He added that he wanted to gather his bearings, in order to put out clear, detailed radio traffic of what was going on, of where he was at, and the description of the suspect. Deputy West said the encounter was happening quickly within a matter of seconds. He stated it was about six seconds into the foot pursuit when Deputy Puga yelled that Suspect Hernandez had a gun.

Deputy West said he did not split up with his partner during the foot pursuit. He stated they remained close to each other and communicated with one another during the encounter.

Deputy West stated that since Suspect Hernandez was grabbing for his waistband the entire length of their encounter, he alerted Deputy Puga as to the high level of threat the suspect posed toward them.

Deputy West concluded by stating he believed their tactics were sound as they put out as much information as soon as they could in a safe manner. He stated they used cover and concealment techniques throughout the incident.

IAB Note: Refer to the transcribed copy of Deputy West's interview for further details.

SUSPECT STATEMENT:

OSS Detective Rodriguez interviewed Suspect Hernandez on July 28, 2010, at the Inmate Reception Center.

Suspect Hernandez told Detective Rodriguez that he did not ride his bicycle on the evening of July 27, 2010. He added that he did not see deputy personnel at 111th Place.

Suspect Hernandez said he was asleep in the bush when he was contacted by Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department K-9 deputies.

Suspect Hernandez stated that he was never in possession of a handgun, or backpack containing burglary tools.

Suspect Hernandez told Detective Rodriguez that he was never shot at by deputy personnel; however, he did hear three gunshots.

Suspect Hernandez said he heard a helicopter and police while he was lying in the bushes.

Suspect Hernandez admitted to using methamphetamine earlier in the day.

Suspect Hernandez said earlier in the evening, at dusk, he was walking south in the alley east of Broadway from 110th Street when he climbed over a gate and fell asleep in the bush. He said he did not know who lived at the residence of where he fell asleep at.

Suspect Hernandez said he heard orders from the police to get out; however, he ignored their orders and remained in the bush.

Suspect Hernandez said his first and only contact with deputy personnel was with the K-9 deputies.

Suspect Hernandez told Detective Rodriguez that he is a member of the "18th Street" criminal street gang, named "Tiny Devils." He goes by the moniker of "Grimm." He had numerous tattoos consistent with being a member of the "18th Street" criminal street gang.

Suspect Hernandez refused to be interviewed by Internal Affairs Bureau investigators.

SUSPECT'S INJURIES:

Minor puncture wounds to the left forearm from a Canine Services Detail dog bite.

<u>IAB Note:</u> Refer to Exhibit A for details regarding a supplementary report by Canine Services Detail and medical release information.

DEPUTY PERSONNEL INJURIES:

None

PHYSICAL EVIDENCE:

Collected by Scientific Services Bureau, Crime Scene Investigators:

EVIDENCE:

Item #1	Bicycle, Silver
Item #2	Three lock picks
Item #3	Fanny pack, Black
Item #4	Fired cartridge case
Item #5	Fired cartridge case
Item #6	Two screwdrivers
Item A	Bullet hole in wrought iron gate
Item B	Bullet strike mark on east wall of Broadway.

IAB Note: Refer to Exhibit A for further details.

Location #1: Broadway, Los Angeles. Vehicle Description: 2003, Ford, crown Victoria, Black/White, 4-Door, CA Exempt #1149323. K225162 - Biology: One (1) "SX200, PACIFIC" silver bicycle located in front of EV - 1: **K225161 - Returned to Agency:** EV - 2: Three (3) lock picks located laying in the alley behind Broadway, Los Angeles. One (1) black fanny pack with miscellaneous items inside located laying EV - 3: in the alley behind Broadway, Los Angeles. **K225160 - Firearms:** EV - 4: One (1) cartridge case located laying in the alley behind Broadway, Los Angeles. One (1) cartridge case located laying in the alley behind Broadway. EV - 5: Los Angeles. **K225163 - Chemical Processing/Biology:** Two (2) screwdrivers located laying in the grass in front of EV - 6: Broadway, Los Angeles. Broadway # Los Angeles. Location #1:

EV - 7: One (1) fired bullet recovered from inside of the east-stucco wall of Unit

Evidence was retained by Criminalist Peck.

K225159 - Trace Evidence:

One (1) GSR Kit#51803 (not marked) was collected at Century Sheriff's Station.

K225158 - Firearms Section:

One (1) Beretta (not marked) 92FS, 9mm, Parbellum, black, semi-auto handgun, along with 12 live rounds and an empty magazine, was collected at Century Sheriff's Station.

EV - A: One (1) bullet hole located on the wrought iron gate behind

Broadway, Los Angeles.

EV - B: One (1) bullet hole with a bullet fragment inside located on the east exterior stucco wall of Broadway, Los Angeles.

Latent print examinations was conducted on EV-1 with no print developed.

CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION:

The following holes were observed:

- A Bullet hole in a wrought iron fence at the northeast corner of the property. The bullet passed through the fence, then impacted the sidewalk located just west of the fence (A-1). The bullet traveled in a westbound and slightly southbound direction, and downwards. No additional holes or impacts were observed and this bullet was not located.
- Bullet hole in the east exterior wall of the rear-most residential unit at Broadway. The bullet entered the wall where it remained. The bullet traveled westbound, but additional trajectory information could not be determined. This bullet was recovered from within the wall as Item #7.

Evidence

Item #7 was transported to the laboratory and submitted for examination under laboratory number K227567.

<u>IAB Note:</u> Refer to Scientific Services Bureau, Firearms Identification Section Supplementary report written by Firearms Examiner Tracy Peck.

INVESTIGATORS OBSERVATIONS:

Deputy Puga stated that he accounted for loading only fifteen rounds of ammo into his department issued weapon, Beretta 92FS, prior to the incident. He said that through department firearms training, he is aware that the Beretta 92FS is loaded with fifteen rounds in the magazine with one round in the chamber.

SHOOTING INCIDENT EVALUATION

<u>IAB Note:</u> Refer to Scientific Services Bureau, Firearms Identification Section Supplementary report for further details indicating the collection of Deputy Puga's firearm containing one empty magazine and 12 live rounds of ammunition.

OSS Detective David Rodriguez stated that only two casings were located at the shooting location. A return the next day during daylight hours in search of an additional casing met with negative results.

GSR Kit Examination Conclusions:

One particle characteristic of gunshot primer residue and numerous particles consistent with gunshot primer residue were detected on the hand samples. The presence of these particles is consistent with the subject handling or discharging a firearm, being in close proximity to a discharging firearm, or otherwise having been in contact with an environment of gunshot primer residue.

<u>IAB Note:</u> Refer to Exhibit A for a copy of the supplementary report by Senior Criminalist Kristina Fritz

WEAPONS USED BY DEPUTY PERSONNEL:

DEPUTY IASON PUGA:

Service Weapon: Beretta, Model 92FS, semiautomatic pistol bearing serial number

BER

Type of Ammunition: 9mm

Ammunition: Three rounds fired with (12) live rounds and an empty magazine.

Shell Casings: Collected by Sheriff's Forensic Identification Specialist Jackie Thompson

Date Employee Last Qualified: (Mobile Range):

Date Last Trained With Weapon:

Laser Village:

Receipt #K225158: Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department- Scientific Services

Bureau, Firearms Identification Section. (Refer to Exhibit A)

WEAPONS USED BY SUSPECTS:

Black handgun (not found)

PROPERTY DAMAGE:

Bullet hole to the wrought iron fence at the northeast corner of Broadway, Los Angeles.

SHOOTING INCIDENT EVALUATION

Bullet hole in the east exterior wall of the rear-most residential unit at Broadway, Los Angeles.

<u>IAB Note:</u> Refer to Exhibit A, Field Investigation

report by Firearms Examiner Tracy Peck.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR and CHARGES FILED:

Investigator: LASD Operation Safe Streets (OSS)

Detective David Rodriguez

Court: South Central District

Charges Filed: 245(D)(1) PC; 12021(A)(1) PC; 417© PC; 466 PC; 69 PC along with

special allegations

Case Status: Pled out to a 3 year prison term. Sentenced on 03/30/2011.

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND LIGHTING CONDITIONS:

The incident occurred during the hours of darkness and the weather was clear.